

REMARKS

Applicants submit that, contrary to the Examiner's finding, the subject matter of claim 14 is not anticipated by Graves. If it is assumed, as the Examiner does, that the switching matrices of the instant claims correspond to matrices 12a to 12m of Fig. 2 of Graves, and that the signal shaping units are embodied in wavelength converting switch 14 of Graves, it is readily apparent from Fig. 2 of Graves that between these, there are no further switching elements. Claim 14, reciting these switching elements, is therefore new.

Each of Graves' matrices 12a to 12m has a unique wavelength or wavelength group associated to it. Wavelength converting switch 14 must therefore be capable of handling any of these wavelengths. Graves is completely silent as to how such a switch might be designed.

Accordingly, no design of such a switch can be obvious from Graves. The design of the switch 14 of Graves is an unsolved problem, and its solution, as defined in claim 14 and depicted in Figs. 3 and 4, is non-obvious.

Claim 12 having been limited by the addition by the subject matter of claim 14, the objections against the dependent claims are moot.

Petition is hereby made for a one-month extension of the period to respond to the outstanding Official Action to February 9, 2008. A check in the amount of \$120.00, as the Petition fee, is enclosed herewith. If there are any additional charges, or any overpayment, in connection with the filing of the amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such deficiency, or credit any such overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-1145.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRSCHSTEIN, OTTINGER, ISRAEL & SCHIFFMILLER, P.C.

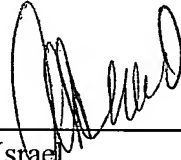
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